

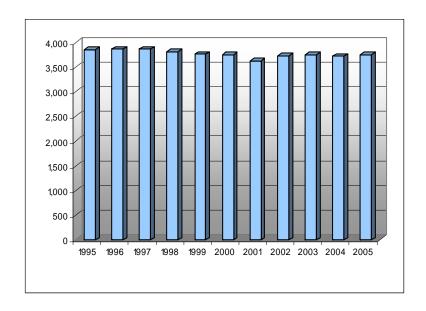
## LEWIS COUNTY PROFILE

Prepared by Doug Tweedy, Regional Labor Economist, Idaho Commerce & Labor 1158 Idaho Street, Lewiston, Idaho 83501 — (208) 799-5000, ext. 3511 E-Mail: dtweedy@cl.idaho.gov — Labor Market Information website: cl.idaho.gov/lmi

June 2006

## **Population**

During the decade of the 1990's, population in Lewis County peaked at 3,856 in 1997. Since then, population flattened to 3,750 in 2005. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates a population growth of 1 percent for Lewis County between July 1, 2004, and July 1, 2005. The increase ranked Lewis County 31st out of Idaho's 44 counties in population growth. New registrations for driver's licenses and job registrations at the Grangeville Job Service indicate that people who did move to Lewis County are from other parts of the Pacific Northwest and California. People are moving into Lewis County for the scenic and rural nature of the county, and because of the low cost of land.

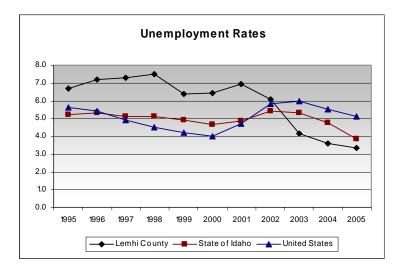


## **Labor Force & Employment**

Annual average employment in 2005 increased. Almost all of the new jobs were created in the public schools and food/convenience stores. The percentage of *Manufacturing* (lumber and wood products) employment continues to decrease. A major sawmill closed in 2001 and since than, other mills have reduced worker hours and temporarily laid off workers.

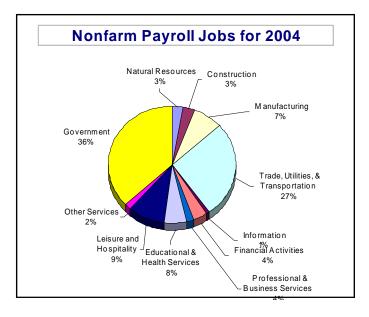
A bright spot has been that jobs in *Construction* continue to increase. This increase has helped stimulate the county's economy during the first half of 2006. *Construction* increased because low land prices allowed people to build houses in Lewis County and commute to work in Lewiston. Three industries,

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	1,849	1,814
Total Employment	1,795	1,770
Unemployed	55	44
Lemhi County % Unemployed	3.0	2.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7



Agriculture, Lumber & Wood Products, and Government continue to dominate Lewis County's economy. Public lands within the county provide recreational opportunities, which help to diversify the economy. Since 1980, jobs in agriculture have decreased by one third.

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	1,630	1,645	1,611	1,607	1,540	1,736	1,693	1,683	1,679	1,770	1,773
Unemployment	110	119	118	121	99	111	118	103	70	64	59
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.7	7.2	7.3	7.5	6.4	6.4	6.9	6.1	4.2	3.6	3.3
Employment	1,520	1,526	1,493	1,486	1,441	1,624	1,576	1,581	1,609	1,706	1,714



## **Covered Employers**

In Lewis County, between 2003 to 2004, the number of employers increased by two, to a total of 176. By industry, *Manufacturing, Government*, and *Trade* account for 69 percent of all jobs. Average wages for the county in 2004 increased 2.9 percent from 2003.

Major Employers
City of Kamiah
Department of Public Lands
Highland Joint School District #305
Hillco, Inc
Kamiah Elmentary School
Kamiah Jr./Sr. High School
Kamiah Mills
Lewis & Clark RV Park
Lewis County
Nezperce Joint School District #302
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Occupational Wages*	Average Wage
Agricultural Workers	\$17.52
Carpenters	\$14.60
Cashiers	\$7.14
Child Care Workers	\$7.00
Computer Tech	\$14.52
Dental & Health Care Workers	\$10.21
Janitors	\$8.10
Guards	\$9.39
Nurses	\$18.89
Salespersons, Retail	\$7.25
Scretaries	\$10.03
Teachers	\$18.86
Waiters & Waitresses	\$5.68

<sup>\*</sup> Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at <a href="cl.idaho.gov/lmi.">cl.idaho.gov/lmi.</a>

Covered Employment & Average Annual	1994		2003		2004		
Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average	
	Employment	Wages	<b>Employment</b>	Wages	<b>Employment</b>	Wages	
Total Covered Wages	1,059	\$16,800	1,190	\$20,466	1,181	\$21,073	
Agriculture	58	\$18,366	106	\$20,554	107	\$20,252	
Mining	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Construction	25	\$17,647	31	\$19,146	35	\$19,527	
Manufacturing	77	\$25,687	91	\$25,546	84	\$27,882	
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	292	\$17,597	313	\$18,192	307	\$18,727	
Information	*	*	*	*	8	\$26,402	
Financial Activities	45	\$14,490	40	\$15,893	42	\$18,591	
Professional and Business Services	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Educational and Health Services	28	\$12,367	61	\$19,336	65	\$19,142	
Leisure and Hospitality	122	\$6,993	108	\$9,879	105	\$9,924	
Other Services	4	\$8,419	15	\$24,460	19	\$24,600	
Government	375	\$18,090	398	\$24,422	387	\$25,266	

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Lemhi County	\$17,758	\$18,521	\$19,126	\$20,343	\$21,404	\$22,829	\$24,200	\$23,201	\$23,401	\$26,969
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472
Information provided by U.S. Ce	nsus Bureau									



Partners with IDAHO idahoworks.org